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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Jay S. Walker et al. Group Art Unit: 2165

Serial No : 09/252,574 Examiner: N. Rosen

Filed : February 18, 1999

For : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ALLOCATING BUSINESS TO ONE OF A  
PLURALITY OF SELLERS IN A BUYER DRIVEN ELECTRONIC  
COMMERCE SYSTEM

**AMENDMENT**

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 10 2002  
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 25, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 5, 9, 10, 12, 32, 36, 37 and 39 as follows:

5. (Amended) An allocation method in a buyer-driven system in which conditional purchase offers are received and considered by or on behalf of a plurality of sellers, the conditional purchase offers each including (1) a buyer-specified price for a good or service and (2) a payment identifier specifying a financial account to be used to pay for said good or service upon acceptance of a conditional purchase offer by a seller, comprising: